

# *California-Japan Scholars Program*



**Program Report for 1999**  
Prepared by the California  
International Relations Foundation  
Sacramento, California



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The California International Relations Foundation is honored to present this Third Report of the California-Japan Scholars Program. This year's summary of activity comes with a great deal of gratitude for the many organizations and individuals who have worked so hard to make our exchange efforts a continuing success.

The California-Japan Scholars Program was established by statute in 1996, following a Senate delegation visit to Japan the previous year to strengthen economic relations between this state and our leading trade partner. Then-President pro Tempore Bill Lockyer, and Senators John Vasconcellos, Cathie Wright, and Hilda Solis, met in Tokyo with Ambassador Walter Mondale. The former Vice-President suggested that our great challenge in perfecting the U.S.-Japan partnership arose not from economic imbalances, but from an imbalance in understanding. He noted that Japan for decades had invested in international educational programs for its students, while comparatively few Americans were afforded an opportunity to study in Japan. The Ambassador suggested that California's best contribution to US-Japan relations might be the establishment of an aggressive student exchange program that would serve as an example for the rest of the nation.

The Senators took the Ambassador's advice to heart. Upon the delegation's return, the President pro Tempore asked the California International Relations Foundation to assist the Senate in implementing a model student exchange program. Following legislation by Senator Vasconcellos, the California-Japan Scholars Program was underway.

In 1997 we organized our first class of California-Japan Scholars, with the assistance of the California Department of Education. American teens were chosen to participate on the basis of academic achievement and previous interest in Japanese society and culture. We learned from this first exchange: we determined to control our costs more vigorously, and to broaden our base of potential participants.

In 1998 we conducted our first bilateral exchange. We designated a coordinator within the Foundation to oversee selection of California participants, and we hosted the visit of 100 students from Japan. From the American side, we provided financial assistance to our students with demonstrated financial need. For the Japanese students, we received the guidance and support of the Elk Grove Unified School District. Elk Grove's enthusiasm and professionalism taught us that the key to success was

well-run, localized management, with the state acting in an oversight capacity.

This year, 1999, we developed what we believe will be the on-going model for the Program. The California International Relations Foundation identified California school districts interested in participating, found prefectures in Japan willing to serve as hosts, and provided local training and financial assistance to students based upon need. Actual implementation of the Program was the responsibility of local California school districts and their Japanese counterparts.

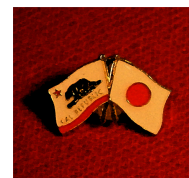
We face challenges in the year 2000. While we now have the organizational structure we want, we still face the task of guaranteeing its funding. **98% of our costs are directly attributable to scholarship assistance for students based on need.** For help in this area, we remain greatly reliant on the profound generosity of California's business community and Foundation Members. To ensure on-going state support, we have legislation pending providing the resources to coordinate school district efforts here and in Japan. And we confront the task of Program development within Japan, continually seeking out local governments and school districts to act as hosts and sponsors.

Today there are nearly 300 Japanese and California citizens who, by their participation, have helped "correct the imbalance in understanding" suggested by Ambassador Mondale. We hope to add another 100 in the year 2000. We intend to grow over time, in the firm conviction that these exchanges constitute our best investment in the future peace and prosperity of the Pacific Rim.

On behalf of the California International Relations Foundation, I would like to thank everyone whose loyalty and enthusiasm has blessed the Program to date: to those in the State Department of Education who helped in the beginning, to the Elk Grove educational community who set us on track, to the many corporate sponsors whose generosity is particularly appreciated. I would like to thank President pro Tempore John Burton and the Senate Rules Committee for his patience and support, the Osaka Prefectural Government and the Consulate General of Japan for their commitment of time and energy. This year, I would especially like to thank Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante for his personal involvement and diplomatic assistance. His enthusiasm was an inspiration to all of us.

Gregory P. Schmidt  
Chair

# Thanks, for making it happen ...



## Private Sector Support

Airtouch  
Disco Hi-Tec America  
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Lieutenant Governor Cruz M. Bustamante  
Attorney General Bill Lockyer  
California State Senate  
California State Assembly  
California Department of Education  
Elk Grove Unified School District

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Embassy of Japan  
Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco  
Osaka Prefectural Government  
Osaka Board of Education

# The Seeds of Success ...



“Given the current and potential vitality of the State of California and the Osaka Prefecture, as well as their strong cultural ties, the parties recognize that their regions can establish broader economic, technological, and cultural relations.”

*Excerpt from the 1994 Cooperation Agreement between California and the Prefecture of Osaka, signed by Governors Pete Wilson and Kazuo Nakagawa on November 15, 1994*



*This year's program expands on the 1994 cooperation agreement between California and the Osaka Prefecture. Visits to Japan in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 by Members of the California Senate strengthened the framework for the success of the California– Japan Scholars program. Above from left, Senator Jim Brulte, Mrs. Sue Rainey and Senator Richard Rainey participate in a traditional Osaka tea ceremony with officials for the Osaka Board of Education in April, 1997.*



*On the grounds of California's Capitol, just outside the Governor's window, stands a grove of cherry trees from Japan. The grove stands as inspiration for those inside the Capitol and the future engineers of California-Japan relations.*



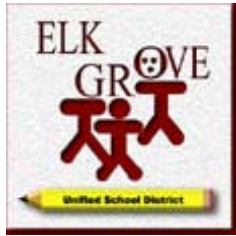


# The Seeds of Success ...



*In 1998, a high level delegation of educational leaders from California met with Osaka school officials to discuss cooperation in international education. Pictured above from left are: **Masahiro Wasa** (Director of High School Supervision Division, Osaka Prefecture Board of Education), **Syougo Kobayashi** (Vice-representative of the Osaka Private Junior and Senior High School Principal Association), **Masako Nakahira** (Deputy Director General of Department of Civic and Cultural Affairs), **Assemblymember Susan Davis**, **Kan Hayashi** (Executive Director of Education, Osaka Prefecture Board of Education), **Marian Bergeson** (former Senator and then-California Secretary for Education), **Gary Hart** (former Senator and current California Secretary for Education), **Scott Keene** (representing the California International Relations Foundation), **Michael Bott** (representing the Elk Grove Unified School District), **Naotake Amikura** (Deputy Director General, Osaka Prefecture Board of Education), **Tetsuhiko Ikegawa** (Director, Osaka Private School Division Department of Civic and Cultural Affairs).*

# The theory ...



“Much is in the news these days about education, particularly the need to equip our students with higher level skills in math, science, reading, and written expression. Yet we all know that what's taught in the classroom is just one part of what's needed to succeed in life. Equally important is an exposure to diversity in ideas and culture, and particularly the Pacific Rim, which is California's partner in trade and culture.”

*David Gordon, Superintendent, Elk Grove Unified School District*

“For young Californians, early interaction with Japan provides a wealth of opportunity. For some it is a gateway to Asian culture and the chance to draw contrasts with an education grounded in non-western civilization. For others, it's a chance to observe, wonder and compare societies that differ much from our own. “

*Cruz Bustamante, California Lieutenant Governor*

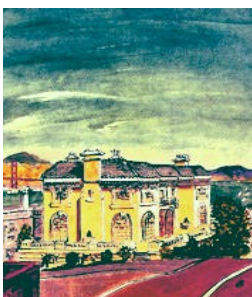


“Until now, international education at the secondary level has generally been available only to those with the financial means to participate. In three years, this program has produced 260 California-Japan scholars. In every case, these are scholars who would not have had the opportunity to participate.”

*Takahiro Moriguchi President, Union Bank of California*

“Each person who takes part in the exchange program will come away with memories they will keep forever. I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge everyone involved in making the Scholars Program such a success. Producing this event requires intensive planning and a sense of open communication between our two educational systems.”

*Yoshitomo Kurokawa, Superintendent, Osaka Prefectural Board of Education*



“On behalf of the Government of Japan, I am very pleased to welcome California's participation in this innovative exchange. The California-Japan Scholars Program is the first high school exchange with Japan initiated by a state government. Japan welcomes California students and looks forward to many years of continued success.”

*Hitoshi Tanaka, Consul General of Japan, San Francisco*

# Assembly Bill 2902



## CHAPTER 773

*An act to add Section 48054 to the Education Code, relating to pupils.  
[Approved by Governor September 21, 1996. Filed with Secretary of State  
September 23, 1996.]*

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

#### **AB 2902, Vasconcellos. Pupils.**

Existing law, the Uniform Supervision of International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organizations Act of 1994, requires international student exchange visitor placement organizations to register with the Attorney General, as specified, and to provide certain information to participating students, host families, and school districts. Existing law authorizes a school district to require proof of registration with the Attorney General from any organization seeking to place an international student exchange visitor, as defined, in the school district as a condition to agreeing to enroll that student.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop and implement a plan to help achieve the objectives in a specified agreement between the United States and Japan providing for the educational exchange of high school pupils. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the plan be developed and implemented no later than June 1, 1997. The bill would require costs of the plan to be funded through donations from the private sector. The bill would prohibit the appropriation of state funds to the State Department of Education for the purpose of developing and implementing the plan.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 48054 is added to the Education Code, to read:

48054. (a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and implement a specific plan to help achieve the objectives contained in the April 17, 1996, Joint Statement between the United States and Japan providing for the educational exchange of high school pupils between the two countries. The plan shall include ways to best utilize the strong cooperative relationship between California and the Osaka Prefecture that was established pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement dated November 15, 1994, between the State of California and the Prefecture of Osaka.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the plan be developed and implemented no later than June 1, 1997.

(c) The costs of the plan shall be funded through donations from the private sector. No state funds shall be appropriated to the State Department of Education for the purposes of developing and implementing the plan required pursuant to subdivision (a).

# Reality in 1999 ...



Thirty students were selected to represent California in the June 1999 program. During their two weeks in Osaka, participants attended classes at one of seventeen host schools and stayed with Japanese host families. All of the participants were enrolled in the Japanese language curriculum at their respective high schools.

Students were selected on the basis of academic performance and a demonstrated interest in expanding their knowledge of Japanese culture, society and language.



# Bon Voyage...



“As author of the legislation which created the California–Japan Scholars Program, I am delighted by our success in providing young citizens of our respective places an opportunity for visiting and meeting and learning about life and people in the other’s place, hopefully providing them a commitment for lifelong involvement in improving California/Japan relations, so critical to the world’s well-being in the 21st Century.”

**John Vasconcellos**  
**California State Senator**

*(From left, below)*



On June 10th, the 1999 California-Japan Scholars were recognized at a ceremony in the Governor’s Office at the State Capitol. Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante hosted the ceremony in cooperation with Attorney General Bill Lockyer, the Senate Office of International Relations, the Consulate General of Japan, and the Osaka Prefectural Office.

# California-Japan Scholars

## The Class of 1999



Lucas Atkins, Arlyn Belmonte, Daniel Cabrera, Nathan Cisneros, Emily Davis, Tina Duong, Celso Duque, Stacy Glaviano, Wendy Griffe, Heather Hayashi, Chris Hung, Michelle Lau, Hugh Le, Kayla Maruyama, Eric Matsunami, Jason McDowell, Keith Nguyen, Keith Ng, Douglas Rabe, Sarah Roberts, David Szeto, Krystle Mace, Andre Paula, Sung Park, Jason Payne, Minh Pham, Katie Moua, Ryan Vice, Hoa Voong, Donald Worley.



*Upon their return, each of the Scholars received an award commemorating their participation in the 1999 Program.*

# The 1999 Itinerary...



<i>June 8</i>	<i>Bon Voyage Dinner</i>
<i>June 10</i>	<i>State Capitol recognition ceremony</i>
<i>June 11</i>	<i>Depart California for Osaka</i>
<i>June 12</i>	<i>Arrive Osaka Welcome reception Homestay Begins</i>
<i>June 13</i>	<i>Free day with host family</i>
<i>June 14</i>	<i>Visit to Kyoto, Osaka Castle Observe Bunraku</i>
<i>June 15-18</i>	<i>Attend school with host brother/sister</i>
<i>June 19-20</i>	<i>Free days with host family</i>
<i>June 21-25</i>	<i>Attend school with host brother/sister</i>
<i>June 25</i>	<i>Attend Farewell Party</i>
<i>June 26</i>	<i>Depart Kansai International Airport Return to California</i>

# Proud Results...



“Thank you very much for giving these students an unforgettable experience in Osaka, Japan this past summer. It was an absolutely fantastic trip.

Each student attended school every day and went on sightseeing trips with their school and family. Despite the usual hot and humid summer weather, not a single student complained. Each student made many new friends and became a member of their family in the true sense of the word.

Whenever we visited our students, I always felt so proud of them because they were doing their best and more importantly, they were enjoying their stay in Osaka so much. I was always asked, “Sensei (teacher), can I please stay in Japan longer.” In fact, at the airport a student came up to me and said jokingly, “Shinozaki Sensei, pasupooto ga arimasen. Nihon ni imasu (I lost my passport so I will remain in Japan).”

If I were asked what these students learned from this trip I would say, “This trip has given each student a real sense of global interest by being a young Ambassador from the United States and has also given each student a heightened desire to further their studies in Japanese.”

Lead Teacher Carrolyn Shinozaki



# Student Comments ...



**Hoa Voong**: I felt this trip was really helpful in enhancing my speaking ability in Japanese. This trip was really helpful and I enjoyed myself in Japan.

**Ryan Vice**: The trip was fun and educational. Japanese life is very interesting and I really like their culture and the way they live. This trip has helped me prepare for the future because I want to work for a Japanese company.

**Wendy Griffe**: Japan was like a dream come true! I still can't believe I went to Japan. Everybody asks me, "How was Japan?" I tell them that if I told them, then I would have to go on for days about how fun it was. Japan is such a beautiful country and everybody is so nice! I wish I lived there! Everyone at Minato High School treated me so well throughout this whole trip. I learned that people in other countries are very much like us. I met a lot of people in Japan and I hope they keep in touch.

**Kayla Maruyama**: I had a very good time in Osaka and I learned a lot. The people I met were all very kind and they made my experience in Japan unforgettable. I will never forget the people and things that I experienced in Japan and I hope to go again.

**Emily Davis**: I really enjoyed the chance to go. I had so much fun with my host family and all the new friends I made. Everyone was so welcoming. Thank you so much for the chance to go on this trip, I hope the friendships I made this summer will not end. It had been my dream for many years to visit Japan and now my dream has come true.

**Eric Matsunami**: While I was in Japan I was very impressed with what I saw. I thought Japan's culture and history was very interesting and I liked to hear about it. I had so much fun and I feel some kind of emptiness now that I am back here in America. I miss my family, school and everybody I met in Japan. Most of all, I miss seeing the people I saw on a daily basis in Japan.

**Minh Pham**: Japan is very "Japanese." It is a harmonious society, where the present is greatly influenced by its rich history. It was a very hardworking society that has very kind and sincere people. Especially my homestay Grandma!

**Daniel Cabrera**: I feel that this trip was truly remarkable. It was educational yet fun. Everything I did was always demonstrating a different aspect of Japanese day-to-day life or history. I really enjoyed my trip, everything was perfect: the family, the school, especially the food! If I had a chance to go again, I would take it.

**Keith Nguyen**: Coming to Japan was a dream come true. I have always wanted to travel to Japan. When I arrived in Japan, I was very nervous. I did not know what to expect. The host family I stayed with was very kind to me. The people at school were very shy at first, but every day they opened up to me, more and more every day.

# Student Comments ...



**Sung Park:** What can I say. This trip was the second time for me to go to Japan. It was a whole new experience. I learned a lot and I had fun. I'd like to thank all the people who planned this program.

**Katie Moua:** My impression of my trip: All I have to say is that this was a great experience and I hope to say that I will go to Japan again. This is a great experience and I recommend this trip to anyone who wants to learn more about Japan. This trip was great.

**Arlyn Belmonte:** Japan was such a beautiful country, where everyone I met was so friendly. I learned a lot about the culture and language first hand. Through this trip, I've seen the side of Japan where it made a great impact on how I look at Japan. I really was humbled by everything I experienced. The food was great and the people were friendly. I hope I can experience something like this again. I enjoyed myself so much that I recommend everyone I know to visit Japan.

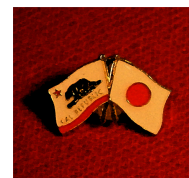
**Doug Rabe:** When I first got to Japan, I felt how uncomfortable the weather was. In Japan the weather wasn't as hot as it is in California, but it was much more humid. However, the weather wouldn't keep me from going to Japan again. One thing I liked a lot about Japan was the transportation. Instead of just taking a car everywhere, we usually walked, took the train and the bus. I liked it because it was good exercise and a lot of fun. The Japanese people had a great impact on me while I was out there. Everyone that I met was very nice and friendly to me. On this trip, I made many friends. The one thing that I will miss the most is the people.

**Jason McDowell:** It was a wonderful way for American and Japanese students to learn more about and understand each other's culture. Through total immersion, I was given the opportunity to improve my spoken and written Japanese. After the first three days of living in Japan, I could go through an entire day without using my pocket Japanese dictionary. I feel that through this program students from Japan and the United States will be able to learn from each other in every way possible—by going to school and living together.

**Keith Ng:** Visiting Japan is probably the best decision I have ever made and I know it was the happiest and best time of my life. This is a place I will visit again; I loved Japan. I'd like to thank all of the people who have helped me through this experience and all of the people who made it possible.

**Lucas Atkins:** This was the most interesting, fun and exciting adventure of my life. I had so much fun that I did not want to leave. It was so interesting how different and how similar Japan is.

# About the California International Relations Foundation



The California International Relations Foundation is a non-profit public benefit corporation that has been organized under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation provides assistance to the California State Senate in furthering the exchange of economic, educational and cultural information between government leaders and other citizens of foreign countries and Members of the California Legislature and other citizens of California. Such exchanges include, but are not limited to, information relating to government, trade and commerce, education, agriculture, tourism, technology, environment and the arts.

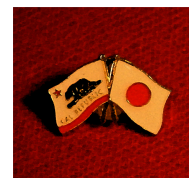
In addition, the Foundation helps to organize and sponsor student exchange programs, so that more American students can learn about the language, political institutions, and culture of other countries, and students from other nations may become familiar with our own democratic principles, culture and representative system of government.

The Foundation is funded by private donations from businesses and individuals who are interested in forging stronger ties between California leaders and leaders in other countries; strengthening California's role in international education and exchange and furthering cultural exchanges between California and other countries.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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